

February 4, 2003

Honorable Ted Stevens
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0201

Dear Senator Stevens:

I am writing to request your assistance in restoring \$6 million of funding for the Northwest Area Water Supply project (NAWS).

The NAWS project is vitally important to our state, and we must get funding for it restored in the 2004 budget. NAWS is a rural water project, designed to provide water for thousands of North Dakota citizens who do not have a reliable domestic water supply.

The State has worked for nearly 20 years for this project, which was approved by Secretary Norton two years ago. Following her approval, we finally began construction last year.

The necessary environmental review has been completed. The Bush Administration has approved the project, and construction has commenced.

Please restore the \$6 million to the Bureau of Reclamation budget, which would allow us to continue construction.

I look forward to working with you and appreciate your help with this important issue.

Sincerely,

John Hoeven
Governor

38:04:49

cc: Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton
U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan
U.S. Senator Kent Conrad
U.S. Rep. Earl Pomeroy